

PROS AND CONS

ANIL

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"For every pro there's an equal and opposite con," goes an old joke I just made up. Only it's not true, surprisingly. I found only one pro/con pair in the Macquarie Dictionary (4th, 2005) that were common opposites, **protract** and **contract**. But not **protractor** and **contractor** in their usual meanings. (For vs. against tractors?) **Protest** and **contest** *can* be opposites, to stretch a point, eg at a politically or morally controversial game. But more commonly they are synonyms: to argue with the umpire. Lastly, might we count the old gag opposites, **progress** and **Congress**?

In protract, most pro/con pairs have little affinity or else relate positively rather than negatively, as seen in this list (with ligating comments) of all the other good pairs from Macquarie. Can readers offer examples, especially antonyms, from other dictionaries?

procession concession	(A kiosk along the parade route?)
pro-Crete concrete	(Just kidding, not listed.)
produce, conduce	(Steps in a chain, a business plan.)
product(ion), conduct(ion)	(Not directly related, with or without ions.)
productivity, conductivity	(Metaphorical and possible technical connection.)
profess(ion), confess(ion)	(Sort of synonyms, a personal 'statement'.)
professional confessional	(The priest is a professional.)
professor-confessor	(If you're lucky!)
profluent, confluent	(Strong affinity but neither synonyms nor antonyms.)
profound, confound	(Strong affinity: blinded by the light.)
profusion confusion	(Swamped with uncertainty?)
prorate, connate	(Cognates? Hands down.)
proscription: conscription	(Ban the draft!)
prosecution consecution	(Combined by any good Prosecutor.)
prospectus, conspectus	(Both are overviews of something.)
prostitute, constitute	(Golddiggers constitute a class of prostitute.)
prostitution Constitution	(Never the twain shall meet(?), but they're not opposites.)
Protestants, contestants	(Winning converts is their favourite sport—the proverbs!)
provenience convenience	(Are you conveniently from the right provenance?...
province, convince	...Provincials are generally convinced they are.)
provocation convocation	(Demonstrators move in—on the above contest?)